

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BENJAMIN J. WEBER, LIZ BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H.4356, AN ACT PROMOTING HOUSING OPPORTUNITY AND MOBILITY THROUGH EVICTION SEALING

WHEREAS, Over one million evictions have been filed in Massachusetts over the past twenty-four years; *and*

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Census Bureau, tenants make up 65% of Boston residents, and 46% of Massachusetts residents, and face increasing burdens to securing safe, stable housing accommodations for themselves and their families; *and*

WHEREAS, Once an eviction case is filed, it becomes part of that tenant's eviction record, which documents the tenant's history of ever having sued or been sued by a landlord; *and*

WHEREAS, Regardless of fault, outcome, or underlying basis for a court filing, possessing any record of an eviction filing can present a serious barrier to a tenant's ability to secure housing; *and*

WHEREAS, Many landlords who routinely serve a notice to quit and file an eviction case simply as a matter of course at the conclusion of a tenancy are unaware of the collateral consequences of eviction records or of the growing record of evictions they themselves are accumulating; *and*

WHEREAS, Legislation introduced in the Massachusetts legislature by Majority Leader Mike Moran and Senator Lydia Edwards, H.4356 would protect tenants from being unfairly branded with an eviction record by creating a path to seal many records; *and*

WHEREAS, Said legislation does not in any way alter the rights of landlords or property owners and allows all parties to exercise legal rights while moving on with their lives; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council goes on record in support of H.4356, An Act Promoting Housing Opportunity and Mobility through Eviction Sealing, with a specific emphasis on incorporating provisions for automatic sealing in cases that are dismissed, cases resolved in favor of the tenant, and no-fault evictions.

In City Council June 5, 2024.
Adopted; yeas 12, not present 1 (Flynn).

Attest:

Alex Geourntas
City Clerk

Filed: June 3, 2024